

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks responsive to the Advisory Action dated March 27, 2006, the Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

In the Final Office Action dated December 7, 2005, the Office maintained its previous rejections of claims 1, 2, 5, and 27–33 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,819,710 to Dupuis. The Office allowed claims 9–26, and objected to claims 4, 6–8, 34 and 35 as depending from rejected claims.

On March 7, 2006, the Applicants filed Amended Declarations under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 overcoming the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 and 27–33 over Dupuis. In the Advisory Action dated March 27, 2006, the Office indicated its refusal to enter the Amended Declarations. Although the Applicants believe that the Office's refusal to enter the Amended Declarations is improper, in the present amendment Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 5 and 27–33 and included their respective limitations in independent claims 4, 6 and 34, in order to expedite the issuance of a patent having the allowable claims and for other sound business reasons. Applicants emphasize that the amended and/or canceled claims are not being amended or canceled for reasons related to patentability and expressly reserve the right to continue the prosecution of the amended and/or rejected claims in a continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional application.

Accordingly, currently pending claims 4, 6-26 and 34-35 are in condition for allowance. Applicants accordingly request issuance of the subject application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned counsel by telephone call in order to further the prosecution of this case in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/7/06



David L. Cargille
Registration No. 46,600

Synnestvedt, Lechner & Woodbridge LLP
112 Nassau Street, P.O. Box 592
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
Telephone: (609) 924-3773
Facsimile: (609) 924-1811